



G-5's "Eye on AMC" U.S. Army Materiel Command

Essential in Peace, Indispensable in War

November 24, 2004

AMC merges units in Europe

In step with Army transformation, Combat Equipment Group – Europe and Army Materiel Command Forward – Europe merged Nov. 18, forming Army Materiel Command Field Support Brigade - Europe. The new unit mirrors the mission of its parent, Army Field Support Command, and will deliver the full spectrum of logistics power projection and support to forces in the field.

"By combining two Army Materiel Command units with a proud history of Warfighter support, the Army gains a leaner organization, focused on delivering expertise and equipment to Soldiers and units throughout the European area of operations," said Col. Max Lobeto, commander of the newly formed brigade.

More than 300 people form the core of the brigade, with several hundred more host-nation service providers and contractors adding capabilities ranging from mechanical repairs to logistics assistance. "We have over 1,600 people on the ground throughout Europe and attached to U.S. Army Europe units for one purpose: delivering logistics readiness power forward," Lobeto said.

The new brigade also brings with it the capability to reach back to commands in the United States. "Our team includes representatives from AMC's major subordinate commands, like Tank-automotive and Armaments Command, Aviation and Missile Command, and others, enabling us to deliver expertise and equipment directly from the source to the Soldier," he added.

Ammunition experts provide critical support to Warfighters

Driven by important mission support and the Warfighter, Army Field Support Command/Joint Munitions Command civilians in the Quality Assurance Specialist Ammunition Surveillance career field work around the clock, sometimes in harm's way, to provide ammunition support services critical to the Army's success on the battlefield.

Among their many and varied missions, QASASs work to ensure that the ammunition Soldiers use in training and warfighting environments functions properly according to the way it was designed and manufactured.

"I think the most important thing that we do is to ensure that the ammunition provided to our Soldiers is safe," said Lisa Hale, a QASAS and team leader in the Ammunition Surveillance Division, JMC.

In addition, the specialists have been involved with managing the enormous quantity of captured enemy ammunition in Iraq. There are approximately 600,000 tons of captured enemy ammunition that have to be safely detonated and reorganized, said Jim Ball, QASAS in the Ammunition Surveillance Division, JMC.

Recently, a portion of the QASAS career field was designated to fill ammunition logistics representative positions within AMC subordinate commands. Ammo LARs work directly and are often embedded with the Soldiers at division and corps levels.

The QASAS career program started in 1920 to support troops in the field with issues involving ammunition, logistics, explosive safety and quality, and transportation in World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam, Operation Desert Storm, and in Iraq and Afghanistan.

AMC employees receive prestigious award

Two AMC career employees received the Defense Department's highest civilian award during a ceremony held Nov. 19 at the Pentagon. Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld presented the award.

Michael A. Parker, director of the Chemical Materials Agency, and Charles M. Smith, chief of field support contracting at the Army Field Support Command, received the Department of Defense Distinguished Civilian Service Award. Six career employees were honored at the 49th annual presentation.

The DoD Distinguished Civilian Service Award recognizes career employees at all levels for their exceptional achievement and honors performance characterized by extraordinary, notable or prestigious contributions that impact the department as a whole.